



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Benefits Administrator Memo **#04-17**

To: Benefits Administrators
From: Mary P. Habel, Director
State and Local Health Benefits Programs
CC: All OHB
Date: December 21, 2004
Re: Two Anesthesiology Groups To Leave Anthem Network

Two separate groups of anesthesiologists, Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates of Richmond and Atlantic Anesthesia in the Tidewater area, have decided to leave the Anthem provider network serving the Commonwealth of Virginia effective January 1, 2005.

Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates provides the majority of anesthesia services at Chippenham Medical Center, Johnston-Willis Medical Center, Richmond Plastic Surgery Operatory and the Virginia Eye Institute. Atlantic Anesthesia provides the majority of anesthesia services at all Sentara hospitals in the Tidewater area except Sentara Careplex in Hampton and Sentara's affiliate, Williamsburg Community Hospital.

The decision by these groups may have financial implications for your agency employees and their families who are planning to have surgery, or other services that require anesthesia, after December 31 at these locations. To minimize the impact on COVA Care plan members, Anthem will continue to pay for covered services as though Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates and Atlantic Anesthesia were still in the Anthem network. Payment will be mailed directly to the member. However, members may be held responsible for the difference between Anthem's payment and Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates' or Atlantic Anesthesia's charges.

To avoid the possibility of additional expenses, we encourage COVA Care plan members in Central Virginia to have services performed at hospitals that offer participating anesthesiologists. That would include all Richmond and Tri-City area facilities except Johnston-Willis and Chippenham Medical Centers.

COVA Care plan members in the Tidewater area should strongly consider having services performed at Tidewater area hospitals that offer participating anesthesiologists. These include DePaul, Maryview, Chesapeake General, Obici Memorial, Southampton Memorial, Hampton General, Williamsburg Community and Riverside.

We regret the inconvenience to you, and to your agency's employees and their families, because of these circumstances. Should the situation change, we will let you know immediately. Thank you for your patience.